

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7101

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ' REFORM PROGRAM

REF: MADRID 6924

SUMMARY: REACTION TO THE TONE AND STYLE OF SUAREZ' SPEECH HAS GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTMENT AND SOME CRITICISM HAVE BEEN REGISTERED OVER HIS FAILURE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE REFORM PACKAGE. HOWEVER, THE INFORMATION MINISTER IS NOW SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE THE SPECIFICS OF THE POLITICAL

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REFORM DRAFT THIS AFTERNOON, WE PRESUME ALONG THE LINES

SET FORTH IN THE REFTEL. SUAREZ'S REITERATION THAT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW--I.E., REFERRAL OF THE PACKAGE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MOVEMENT FOR A NON-BINDING OPINION FOLLOWED BY CORTES (PARLIAMENT) APPROVAL--HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT REASSURING TO THE RIGHT, WHILE HIS EXPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THE NEW CORTES WILL HAVE CONSTITUENT POWERS AND HIS RECOGNITION OF THE OPPOSITION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELABORATION OF THE PROGRAM ARE ENCOURAGING TO THE LEFT OPPOSITION, ALTHOUGH HE ALSO HAS BEEN REBUKED FROM THAT QUARTER FOR HIS FAILURE TO "NEGOTIATE" THE PACKAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS HAS BEEN MIXED, WITH THE SPEECH RECEIVING HIGH MARKS FOR STYLE AND TONE, BUT ELICITING DISAPPOINTMENT AND SOME CRITICISM OVER THE LACK OF SPECIFICS. SOME REPRESENTATIVE EARLY REACTION FOLLOWS:

2. RAIMUNDO FERNANDEZ CUESTA (RIGHTIST FNE): THE SPEECH HAS DISSIPATED ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE REFORM PROCESS. IT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAW.

3. CRUZ MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS (RIGHTIST UDPE): I SEE IN THE SPEECH THE WILL TO MAKE THE REFORM PROGRAM AS CLEAR AND COHERENT AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, I CANNOT OFFER AN OPINION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROGRAM UNTIL I HAVE SEEN AND STUDIED THE TEXT.

4. LUIS VALERO BERMEJO (RIGHTIST NATIONAL VETERANS CONFEDERATION): IT WAS A CALM AND CONFIDENT SPEECH, JUST WHAT THE SPANISH PEOPLE NEED AT THIS TIME.

5. JOAQUIN SATRUSTEGUI (LIBERAL MONARCHIST): I THOUGHT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GOING TO EXPLAIN TO US THE SPECIFICS OF THE REFORM PROGRAM, BUT HE HAS NOT DONE SO. HE HAS TOLD US THAT WE ARE GOING TO VOTE, BUT HE HAS NOT INDICATED UNDER WHAT CONDITION.

6. JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT): I DO NOT
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UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS ABOUT. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE AN OPINION UNTIL I HAVE SEEN THE TEXT OF THE REFORM PROPOSAL.

7. JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT): THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS POSITIVE IN TERMS OF ITS TONE, FORM AND STYLE. HOWEVER, THE REFORM PROGRAM WHICH HE WILL SEND TO THE CORTES IS UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE IT IS NOT THE

RESULT OF AN "AUTHENTIC" NEGOTIATION BETWEEN GOVT AND OPPOSITION. THE PRIME MINISTER INITIATED CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPOSITION, BUT THEY WERE NOT FORMALIZED INTO NEGOTIATIONS.

8. FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT): THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE DOES NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE ME TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.

9. PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: WE CANNOT MAKE A DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT SINCE WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS ELABORATED IN TRADITIONAL REGIME STYLE AND WITHOUT "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH THE OPPOSITION.

10. ENRIQUE TIERNO GALVAN (SOCIALIST PSP): THE MESSAGE IS HOPEFUL AND OPTIMISTIC, BUT IT IS LAMENTABLE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT EXPLICITLY INVITED THE OPPOSITION TO COLLABORATE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS.

11. ENRIQUE BARON (SOCIALIST FPS): THE PRIME MINISTER HAS COMMITTED THE KING AND GOVT TO RETURN SOVEREIGNTY TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT INDICATED HOW THIS IS TO BE DONE. THE PROSPECT OF THE PROGRAM BEING HOSTAGE TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FRANCO INSTITUTIONS IS DISTURBING.

12. MANUEL AZCARATE (PCE): THE PRIME MINISTER HAS REFERRED TO THE NECESSITY OF REESTABLISHING POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS PROPOSALS WILL LEAD TO THAT END. HIS PROGRAM IS NOT THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION AND HE MAKES NO MENTION OF COMPLETE LIBERTY FOR ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, A BASIC CONDITION FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOLDING OF "AUTHENTIC" ELECTIONS.

13. LUIS APOSTUA, CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT "YA" " WIDELY RESPECTED POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, OBSERVED IN THIS MORNING'S EDITION THAT SUAREZ, BECAUSE OF HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GOVT AND LOWER CHAMBER OF THE CORTES WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO INITIATE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS, HAS OPENED THE CONSTITUENT PERIOD. APOSTUA NOTED THE LACK OF SPECIFICS IN THE SUAREZ MESSAGE, BUT PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATED COMMITMENT TO THE CREATION OF A "NEW DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY."

14. IN CONTRAST, MADRID'S CENTER-LEFT "EL PAIS" LEVELED A HARSH BLAST AT SUAREZ, THE ONLY PAPER TO DO SO, FOR HIS REFUSAL TO BE SPECIFIC AS TO EITHER HIS POLITICAL OR

ECONOMIC PLANS AND FOR HIS FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE THE
PROGRAM WITH THE OPPOSITION. "EL PAIS'S" DAMNED IF YOU
DO DAMNED IF YOU DON'S EDITORIAL ACCUSED SUAREZ OF
"FOLLOWING THE PATH OF HIS PREDECESSOR," FORMER PRIME
MINISTER ARIAS, AND, OF ALL THINGS, CONTRIVING TO DUMP
THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS IN THE SAP OF THE PARLIAMENT TO
BE ELECTED NEXT YEAR.

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